employment programmes to create better infrastructure and wage employment opportunities in the rural areas.

As regard the self-employment programmes, the recommendations of the Mehta Committee (1993) and Hashim Committee (1997) have brought out the need to restructure them by providing a definite objective of improving the family incomes of the rural poor as well as providing for flexibility of design at the grass-roots level to suit the local needs and resources and to merge the present self-employment programmes i.e. training of Rural Youth for Self-employment (TRISEM), Supply of improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) and Ganga Kalyan Yojna (GKY) into the Integrated Rural Development Programme.

Watershed development Scheme in Maharashtra

845. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a comprehensive plan of action for watershed development, harnessing excess water during rainy season and improved farm management practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of assistance provided to the State Government to implement uniform guidelines on watershed development; and

(d) the details of State-allocation made during the current year for watershed development and progress achieved so far, particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) No such comprehensive plan of action for watershed development practices have been worked out by the Department of Wasteland Development. Watershed development projects are prepared by the DRDAs and executed by them. They prepare comprehensive plans for watershed development.

(c) Details of assistance provided to the State Govts./DRDA to implement the watershed development programmes are given in the Annexure [See Appendix 184, Annexure No. 24]

(d) State-wise allocations are not made. Funds are released to DRDA/Zilla Parishads on project to project basis. Details of funds released towards implementation of watershed development projects in Maharashtra are as under.

	Name of district	Total cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Total funds released (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Nasik	156.73	115.68
2.	Ahmednagar	42.03	37.53
3.	Parbhani	381.60	57.24
	Total	580.36	210.46

Criteria for Selecting IAY beneficiaries

846. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria in force for selection of Indira Awas Yojana housing beneficiaries;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of grievances have arisen on the mode of selection of IAY beneficiaries;

(c) whether any suggestion have been received to improve the present system; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to review the IAY Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Selection of IAY beneficiaries is to be done by the Gram Sabha from among people below poverty line and the order of priority for selection of beneficiaries amongst the target group is as follows:

* Freed bonded labourers
* SC/ST households who are victims of atrocities.
* SC/ST household below poverty line headed by widows and unmarried women.